

Making a CD from a collection of MP3 files on my website

Some of you have asked for audio cd's instead of MP3 files. Sorry I can't carry out a mass production and distribution effort every time, but most of you who have read/write CD drives in your computer will find it easy to make an audio cd yourselves, by downloading the MP3 files and doing the conversion right in your own computer. Here's a guide for the uninitiated, lessons for tiny tots, as it were. If it fails, check with a buddy, ask the neighbor's 8-year old, or send me a note and we'll walk through it on the phone. Mac users can visit the "Genius Bar," too...

The basic process is the same regardless whether it's mac or windows. Download, import, burn.

1. download all tracks (remember the applause track, too!) to your desktop or other hard-to-lose location on your hard drive, as follows:

Direct your browser to the concert of interest..

- Windows users using Firefox right-click on the link to the first song and choose "save link as..." from the little popup menu.

- Mac users using Safari ctrl-click on the link to the first song and choose "download linked file" from the little popup menu.

The exact menu words differ from version to version and browser to browser.

You won't break anything by trying this and that. Chances are good you'll quickly succeed at this simple task.

Repeat for each of the songs. You don't need to wait for one to finish before starting the next one.

Check your desktop to make sure you have them all. Their names might be different from the text in the link on the web page, but you will figure it out.

1.5 At this point, you can load the .MP3 files straight into an mp3 player, Rio, iPod, etc. and play them that way, if that's all you want to do. Mission accomplished.

If you want to make an "audio CD" of this music, though (so you can play it in your stereo or car radio), a couple more steps are needed. You have the music in the form of "MP3" files. You just have to convert the "MP3" form to the "audio CD" form and write ("burn") the results of the conversion onto a blank CD.

No problem. If you have a windows or mac computer, you already have the necessary software - "Windows Media Player" or "iTunes." And if you don't already have one of those, you can download and install them at no cost.

Windows Media Player:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/Browse.aspx?displaylang=en&categoryid=4>

iTunes: <http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>

Note that it's possible to get a mac version of windows media player, or a windows version of iTunes. They all work. You will not fail.

2. start iTunes or Windows Media Player.

3. read the iTunes or Windows Media Player HELP instructions.

Focus on how to bring MP3's into the music software and how ("burn") music onto an audio CD.

4. import the MP3 files into iTunes or Windows Media Player. In both cases, all you have to do is drag the MP3 files from your desktop onto the work area of the audio software you just started up. In iTunes, you have to drag them specifically to the "Library."

5. make a "playlist" and drag the movements into it (In Windows Media Player it is called a "burn list" instead).

6. In the playlist or burnlist pane, drag the movements into the right order, i.e. drag the first song up to the top, and the applause track down to the bottom.

Play parts of it to make sure it's going to work.

7. click the "burn" or "start burn" button. Insert blank CD-R. (NOT a CD-RW. NOT a DVD-R. It's got to be a CD-R.)

8. Wait 2 to 30 minutes depending on your hardware and quality of CD-R. Did it work? Jump for Joy! Burn another one for a less capable friend!!

(note: though it is called "burning," no actual combustion will take place.)

8. Not enough info here?

For 766,000 pieces of windows-specific advice, google "windows media burn"

Mac users rely on the iTunes help menu for how to import MP3's and how to burn playlists.

And there's always that neighbor kid...

Doug